

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A steam blanketing apparatus for blanketing the face of a spinneret with gas comprising:
  - a spinneret pack body including a spinneret plate having a lower face with an orifice array through which the filaments are extruded;
  - a spin head surrounding the spinneret pack body; and
  - a steam distribution ring surrounding said array, the steam distribution ring including a skirt portion generally perpendicular to the distribution ring, wherein said steam distribution ring abuts the spin head.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steam distribution ring is removably mounted to the spin head.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the spin head includes a plate extending below the spinneret plate, and the steam distribution ring is located in a counterbore formed in the spin head plate.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)